

It has been said that the wife of Armstrong exercised a salutary influence over young Lincoln at this epoch of his life. She took note of his melancholy temperament darkened by the absence of social influences - opened to him her own cheerful home where her children climbed upon his knees and coaxed stories from him which made them shout with glee and wreathed ~~his~~ ~~with~~ ~~his~~ ^{the sadness of his} face into smiles. She looked after his clothing and performed for him other kindly services. Before this time he had drifted from one employment to another. When he determined to become a lawyer she encouraged him to persevere and to gain a better knowledge of grammar, mathematics and history. Under the quiet influence of this sensible ~~and~~ ~~woman~~ ~~of~~ the frontier, he formed that habit of thoroughness in all he undertook to do, which was the basis of his strong character and his subsequent success. Now he remembered her - how she found her bread cast upon the waters, ~~and~~ ~~that~~ ~~and~~, when her hour of trouble came, will be shown in the story of his life as a lawyer.